

1 Amendment to the Claims

2 In the Claims:

3 Please cancel Claims 1-39, as being directed to a non-elected invention.

4 Also, please amend Claims 41, 47, 48, 52, and 54, and add new Claims 57 and 58, as
5 indicated below. No additional amendments to the claims have been made.

6 1-39 (Currently Canceled)

7 40. (Original) A method for utilizing a plurality of menus to access selected data in a menu
8 database opened with a database program, comprising the steps of:

9 (a) providing a menu template that defines a format for each of the plurality of
10 menus, a menu template modifier, and at least one menu database comprising a plurality of database
11 records, said menu template modifier being capable of generating a menu based on said menu
12 template and the data in said plurality of database records, the menu thus generated including a
13 plurality of menu items;

14 (b) enabling a user to select a desired menu from the menu database;

15 (c) using said menu template modifier, said menu template, and a database record
16 to generate the desired menu, said database record defining an appearance and a functionality of the
17 menu items included within the desired menu;

18 (d) displaying said desired menu to a user to enable the user to select at least one
19 of said plurality of menu items, said menu items that is selected having a database record that
20 includes at least one event associated with the menu item; and

21 (e) in response to the menu item being selected by the user, causing said at least
22 one of the plurality of events included in the database record associated with the menu item that was
23 selected, to occur.

24 41. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 40, wherein the step of enabling said at
25 least one of a plurality of events to occur comprises at least one of displaying an additional menu,
26 displaying an image, displaying textual data, playing audio data, playing audio-visual data, playing
27 video data, connecting to hyperlinked data, connecting to a webpage, establishing a telephonic
28 connection, changing the menu database, displaying another menu, and selecting another menu item.

29 42. (Original) The method of Claim 41, further comprising the step of providing a
30 sequencer component that determines an order in which a plurality of events associated with a menu

1 item should occur and implements a timing function for causing the plurality of events to occur in
2 said order.

3 43. (Original) The method of Claim 41, further comprising the step of enabling the user to
4 disable sequencer events and the timer function, so that the user can bypass data with which the user
5 is familiar and navigate through a sequence of menus more rapidly.

6 44. (Original) The method of Claim 41, further comprising the steps of:

7 (a) providing a plurality a database records that define a plurality of sequential
8 menus; and

9 (b) enabling the user to select at least one of a sequence of menu databases, a
10 sequence of menus, and a sequence of menu items, by selecting a single menu item.

11 45. (Original) The method of Claim 40, further comprising the step of providing a tracker
12 component that records each menu item selected.

13 46. (Original) The method of Claim 45, wherein when an additional menu is displayed to a
14 user, said tracker generates a textual report of menu items selected by a user on an immediately
15 preceding menu.

16 47. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 45, further comprising the step of enabling
17 a user to generate a report that includes each previously selected menu item, said report being usable
18 to provide results of a questionnaire comprising the menu items displayed to the user from
19 which the user selected specific menu items.

20 48. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 40, further comprising the steps of
21 providing a timer function that automates display of successive menus[;], and enabling a user to
22 selectively enable and disable said timer function.

23 49. (Original) The method of Claim 40, wherein the menu template displays the plurality of
24 menu items in a spatial organization so that each menu item has a one-to-one relationship with a
25 corresponding one of at least a portion of a plurality of keys on a keyboard input device.

26 50. (Original) The method of Claim 49, wherein the spatial organization of the menu items
27 generally duplicates a spatial organization of at least a portion of a plurality of keys on a numeric
28 keypad.

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51. (Original) The method of Claim 40, further comprising the steps of providing an edit function with the menu template modifier, and enabling a user to selectively edit one of a desired menu and a desired menu item in a menu with the menu template modifier.

52. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture adapted for use with a computing device, comprising:

(a) a memory medium; and

(b) a plurality of machine instructions stored on the memory medium, which when executed by a processor of the computing device, causing cause the processor to:

(i) enable a user to select a desired menu in a menu database opened in a database program;

(ii) access a menu template, a menu template modifier, and a plurality of database records in which data are included that define an appearance of the desired menu, and an appearance and functionality for a plurality of menu items included in the desired menu;

(iii) use the menu template, the menu template modifier, and the plurality of database records to recreate the desired menu;

(iv) display said desired menu to a user to enable a user to select at least one of a plurality of menu items; and

- (v) enable at least one of a plurality of events associated with the menu item that was selected to occur in response to the selection of the menu item.

53. (Original) The article of manufacture of Claim 52, wherein said menu template defines a format in which the menu items in the desired menu are displayed so that a layout of the menu items generally duplicates a layout of at least a portion of a plurality of keys on a keyboard input device.

54. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling a user to access data in a menu database opened with a database program, using a plurality of predefined menus, comprising:

(a) a memory in which a plurality of machine instructions are stored;

(b) a display;

(c) a keyboard input device comprising a plurality of keys[[,]]; and

(d) a processor that is coupled to the display and to the memory to access the machine instructions, said processor executing said machine instruction to implement a plurality of functions, including:

(i) enabling a user to select a desired menu from the menu database, said desired menu including a plurality of menu items;

(ii) using a menu template that defines a format of the desired menu, a menu template modifier, and a database record included in the menu database, recreating the desired menu, said database record including data that define an appearance and functional parameters of the menu items[.].;

(iii) displaying said desired menu to the user, and enabling the user to select at least one of a plurality of menu items, the data defining each menu item in a database record specifying any events associated with the menu item; and

(iv) enabling at least one of a plurality of events associated with the menu items that was selected by the user to occur.

55. (Original) The system of Claim 54, wherein said menu template formats a layout of the menu items included in the desired menu to generally duplicate a layout of a plurality of keys on at least a portion of a keyboard input device, so that there is a one-to-one relationship between each menu item and a corresponding one of the plurality of keys in said at least the portion of the keyboard input device.

56. (Original) The system of Claim 55, wherein said at least the portion of keys comprises a numeric keypad of a keyboard.

57. (New) A method for utilizing a plurality of menus to access selected data in a menu database opened with a database program, each menu being configured to be displayed to a user in its entirety at the same time, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a menu template that defines a format for each of the plurality of menus, a menu template modifier, and at least one menu database comprising a plurality of database records, each database record comprising sufficient data to enable said menu template modifier to generate a unique menu based on said menu template and the data in each database record, the menu thus generated including a plurality of menu items;

(b) enabling a user to select a unique database record corresponding to a previously generated menu from the menu database;

(c) using said menu template modifier, said menu template, and the unique database record corresponding to the previously generated menu to re-create the previously generated

1 menu, the unique database record defining an appearance and a functionality of the menu items
2 included within the previously generated menu;

3 (d) displaying the re-created previously generated menu to a user to enable the
4 user to select at least one of said plurality of menu items, said menu items that is selected having a
5 database record that includes at least one event associated with the menu item; and

6 (e) in response to the menu item being selected by the user, causing said at least
7 one event included in the database record associated with the menu item that was selected, to occur.

8 58. (New) The article of manufacture of Claim 52, wherein the machine instructions, when
9 executed by a processor, further cause the actuation of a specific key to execute an action by
10 accessing data in the plurality of database records corresponding to the desired menu to enable the
11 action to be executed.

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